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Dockets Management Branch
Food and Drug Administration HFA-305
5630 Fishers Land, Ro. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

May 11, 1999

RE: Docket #98N-103B

To Whom It May Concern:

I am extremely concerned about proposed plans to remove warning labeling on irradiated food. Because of the possibility of radiolytic products that may form in the food so treated, there may be an increased risk to some individuals who consume these foods.

A number of studies have shown increases in free radicals, which are known to damage chromosomes. Small amounts of such chemicals as benzene, formaldehyde, and peroxides can cause permanent cellular damage and may lead to cancerous states and other health problems.

Your support of the safety of irradiated food is based on only 5 of 441 studies that have been conducted. Many of the studies you are ignoring have demonstrated increased tumors, reproductive failures and kidney damage.

As a health care professional and as a consumer, **I demand the right to know** if a food product has been irradiated or not. Prominent labeling as "irradiated" and the continued use of the radura symbol on food products that have been so treated is the only responsible course of action that your agency can take. To allow irradiated food to be sold and consumed without such labeling amounts, in my opinion, to criminal negligence.

Thank you for taking your agency's mission to protect public health seriously.

Very truly yours,

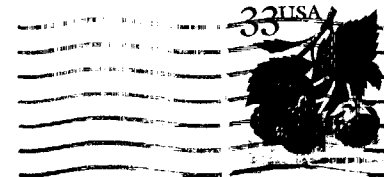


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